

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

March 1, 2012

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Donald Kasprzak, Councilors Tim Carpenter (W1), Mark Tiffer (W2), George Rabideau (W3), Jim Calnon (W4), Chris Case (W5), Chris Jackson (W6)

Absent: None

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on February 23, 2012 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:

RESOLVED: That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending February 29, 2012 in the amount of \$ 243,151.43 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Case

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of February 23 – February 29, 2012
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office from February 2 – February 27, 2012
- Statement of cash receipts from the Library from February 8 – February 14, 2012

RESOLVED: That the reports as read are hereby ordered, received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Case

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

4. CORRESPONDENCE & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None

5. AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

RESOLVED: That the bills Audited by the Common Council in the amount of \$ 723,994.76 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk (where required) are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Rabideau
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL: None

7. OTHER ITEMS:

Motion to Remove item 7A from the Table

By Councilor Tiffer; Seconded by Councilor Case
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the lease of USAF Building 485 to the Champlain Valley Transportation Museum.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Calnon

Discussion:

Councilor Carpenter said listening to Dr. Vaccaro tonight explain that he is making the changes that I think we all felt we wanted him to make I have no problem voting for this now.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves MLD to write-off unpaid final bills from January 1, 2011 to January 31, 2011 in the total amount of \$4,222.36. The percentage of write-offs for this period is .20%.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Case
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

C. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Jim Kegan and the “Lake Lovers” to hold a Used Boats and Boat Equipment Rummage sale on Saturday, June 2, 2012 from 9 am – 5 pm at the Dock Street parking lot.

By Councilor Case; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Discussion:

Councilor Carpenter said I’m kind of interested in going to this it sounds like it might be fun I’m looking forward to it.

Mayor Kasprzak said is going to be a busy place because that’s one of the days that the Rotary fishing tournament is going on so its going to be busy which is good.

Councilor Tiffer said would there be room for food vendors? I think that would be a good idea.

Mayor Kasprzak said we will ask them. He didn’t mention it to us but they’ll be needed I am sure. And I’m not sure if Rotary has got something set up but Beth will follow up on that.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

D. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Police Chief Desmond Racicot to hire a permanent Police officer to replace a Police Officer who is in the final phase to be hired in a position with the NYS Police. This permanent position will be paid out of Asset Forfeiture (DOJ).

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

E. INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL LAW P-2 OF 2012:

Authorizing the transfer of title to abandoned vehicles to the City of Plattsburgh. A Public Hearing is set for March 15, 2012 at 5 pm in the Common Council Chambers, 2nd Floor of City Hall, 41 City Hall Place, Plattsburgh, NY.

By Councilor Case; Seconded by Councilor Jackson

Discussion:

Councilor Carpenter said to be sure what exactly are we voting on. That we are going to have a public hearing or are we voting right now that we are going to transfer title.

Mayor Kasprzak said we are voting on the introduction of the law and that we will have a Public Hearing on March 15, 2012.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

8. TRAVEL REQUEST:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a Police Officer to attend the “The 12th Annual Empire State Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Conference” in Albany, NY from April 18 - 20, 2012 at a cost not to exceed \$398 and will be expensed to the Asset Forfeiture account (DOJ).

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:

1. Request from Kate Quinn to host a 5k Run/Walk on US Oval and the Terry Gordon Bike Path to benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Society on May 6, 2012.
2. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE REAPPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER OF THE PLATTSBURGH HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD TO ALICE HECKARD EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2012 TO APRIL 1, 2017.
3. Request from Bill Treacy, Manager MLD for Change Order #5 to PMLD #2011-7-1 “115Kv Relay Testing” in the total amount of \$14,900 and that the Mayor be authorized to sign the change order.
4. Request from DAV 179 to place a static display at the Veterans Park on US Oval. The DAV 179 will maintain, be responsible for and install any necessary structure to accommodate the display.

Councilor Tiffer said you said that we don’t know what they want to display.

Councilor Calnon said I was here when he came in the other day. He's not sure what they are going to get they've requested equipment from the military they're not sure what piece they're going to get. He said the largest thing would be a light tank which is about the size of a pickup truck.

Mayor Kasprzak said they have been requesting for years.

Councilor Tiffer said so they've requested some kind of armament.

Councilor Calnon said it will be a light tank or a canon or those kinds of things.

Mayor Kasprzak said I had insurance concerns in case they do receive something. **Mr. Herkalo** pointed out that insurance would be covered by the city as the planes are in case someone got on one of those and got hurt.

5. Request from the City Chamberlain to create capital project H5110.36 2012 Street Resurfacing Project to complete the work detailed in the Street Resurfacing & Improvements section of the 2012 Capital Expenditure Plan.
6. Request to appoint Strategic Tourism Planning Committee (STPC) agent for the City of Plattsburgh to explore feasibility of development plan for City Beach property.
7. Request from The Pepper located at 13 City Hall Place to use two parking spaces in front of their establishment for outdoor dining seating. The owners have contacted Concrete Supply and are prepared to purchase the barriers. The City is asked to permit the licensee to use jersey barricades with the City installing and removing at the beginning and end of the season. The City will be reimbursed for these services and the cost shall be determined by the Department of Public Works. The requested dates are from May 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012.

Councilor Jackson said we have a Capitol project to work on the Durkee Street parking lot this summer. The barriers that we do have are we going to need those during the parking lot construction and the people that we have been allowing to use these is this going to be a problem.

Superintendent of Public Works Mike Brodi said we won't need the barriers that the restaurants use.

Corporation Counsel John Clute said I believe that at least some of the barriers used by Irises and Olive Ridley's were purchased by them.

Superintendent of Public Works Mike Brodi said the barriers in front of Irises and Olive Ridley's that are painted were purchased by them.

Councilor Jackson said I didn't realize they had purchased their own.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Kasprzak said I went back and forth twice this week to Albany. I did go to NYCOM did go to something else. The biggest issue for NYCOM is the unfunded mandates and pension and retirement costs which your all are very aware. But, just so you know because none of us were here in 2000. Our retirement costs in the year 2000 in the city was approximately \$18,000 and our budget is \$2.8 million and we are not the only people that are dealing with this issue. Every Mayor there is struggling with these same astronomical percentage increases and ultimately they may cause job reductions or high taxes. Now we haven't really faced either one of those since we've been here but we've worked hard not to. But, those costs are out of control they're unsustainable. That was the theme by the Governor. The Mayor's are approaching all our legislators in Albany and I'll be going to Lake Placid tomorrow to discuss that in front of a mandate relief committee. The theme is the same we need them to adopt some of the Governor's measures so that reduces the cost that we all face as municipalities. And it's becoming quite clear that a lot of the Albany legislators have a different agenda and don't want to do that. So the Governor has asked the Mayors and he visited the Town officials and Village officials 2 weeks prior to our meeting and has asked for all of our help.

Councilor Jackson said I think school districts are now finding out what the impact of a 2% tax cap without mandate relief means.

Mayor Kasprzak said without criticizing school districts many of them have not worked as hard as we have. And now because they are facing the same issues that we did they should have been working on it as long as we were. But that is a very serious situation not only in Beekmantown but in all the school districts and that was also discussed in Albany. And everybody, you're right, is going through the same challenges and it's not fun for anybody it's really a difficult time and I don't know what the answers are. But I know that we've done an outstanding job at keeping costs down and working well with the people we have to and our managers have helped us and some of the unions have stepped forward and cooperated. But I'll tell you if these things continue to escalate at the percentages they are; now Richard told me 3 years ago we had a 34% increase in retirement costs. Last year it was 34% and this year is projected 23%. Quite frankly, Mr. DiNapoli won't tell any of us why he is doing this other than he has to do it. But at any rate its real this is a real issue and we are all dealing with it and we'll do the best we can.

Councilor Jackson said and those increases are compounded. Richard am I correct those increases are compounded?

City Chamberlain Richard Marks said the percentages I measured are just year over year in increases.

Councilor Jackson said right so it's a compounded effect I mean if 34% over 34% from previous 2 years earlier.

Mayor Kasprzak said this is just something that the whole state has to deal with and that was the major theme throughout the 2 day meeting we're not alone. But we've done a better job of handling it than many of my colleagues and we will do our best I know we will.

11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:48 pm